

## REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

AFRL-SR-AR-TR-04-

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0ct07

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)

2. REPORT DATE

3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED

01 Jun 2001 - 30 Nov 2003 FINAL

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE

(THEME 3) Nanostructured Magnetism for Super-Dense Memories

5. FUNDING NUMBERS

61102F

2305/TC

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8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION  
REPORT NUMBER

9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

AFOSR/NE

4015 WILSON BLVD

SUITE 713

ARLINGTON VA 22203

10. SPONSORING/MONITORING  
AGENCY REPORT NUMBER

F49620-01-1-0393

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

12a. DISTRIBUTION AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Unlimited

12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE

## 13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

In the initial phases, we showed that we can prepare self-supporting masks and that the concept of magnetic stabilization using exchange bias is feasible. We developed instrumentation for the preparation of porous alumina masks on a substrate and automated analysis methods for characterization of dot distribution. During the next phase, we started preparation and characterization of samples grown on Si substrates. Studies of the magnetic properties were started during the third phase. Further studies are needed to reach the terrabit-per-square inch goal.

20040810 019

14. SUBJECT TERMS

15. NUMBER OF PAGES

16. PRICE CODE

17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION  
OF REPORT

Unclassified

18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION  
OF THIS PAGE

Unclassified

19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION  
OF ABSTRACT

Unclassified

20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT

UL

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89) (EG)  
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39.18  
Designed using Perform Pro, WHS/DIOR, Oct 94

8-11-04

**FINAL REPORT**  
**June 1, 2001-November 30, 2003**

**Nanostructured Magnetism for Super-Dense Memories**  
**AFOSR – F49620-01-1-0393**

**(AWARD # FOR NEW GRANT PERIOD: FA9550-04-1-0160)**

**Prof. Ivan K. Schuller, P.I.**  
**University of California, San Diego**  
**Institute for Pure and Applied Physical Sciences**  
**9500 Gilman Drive**  
**La Jolla, CA 92093**

## 1. OBJECTIVES

This proposal has been dedicated to the development of nanostructured medium for super-dense memory architecture. More specifically, we concentrated on the preparation, characterization and the study of the physical limitations of artificially nanostructured magnetic materials. These materials will be the building blocks for future ultra-high density patterned magnetic storage media. Under this project we developed self-assembly and electron beam lithography methods for the preparation of nanostructured magnetic arrays, characterize their physical and chemical properties quantitatively and solve the limitation imposed by the superparamagnetic limit.

## 2. STATUS OF EFFORT

In the initial phases, we showed that we can prepare self-supporting masks and that the concept of magnetic stabilization using exchange bias is feasible. We developed instrumentation for the preparation of porous alumina masks on a substrate and automated analysis methods for characterization of dot distribution. During the next phase, we started preparation and characterization of samples grown on Si substrates. Studies of the magnetic properties were started during the third phase. Further studies are needed to reach the terrabit-per-square inch goal.

## 3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/NEW FINDINGS

The key for the development of super dense memories is the reproducible preparation of regular arrays of small ( $\sim 100\text{-}200$  Å) magnetic structures over macroscopic (cmxcm) areas on a substrate.

We have performed studies of the distribution and thermal stability of arrays of small (down to  $\sim 350$  Å) magnetic dots on Si substrates using self assembled alumina as masks. We are able to prepare these arrays of nanodots over macroscopic (cmxcm) areas. The size and distribution of the mask and the arrays correlate well. The distribution width on the mask and array is of the order 10% so further improvements are needed. Improvements in the preparation of the alumina process are underway to decrease the size, to improve uniformity and to perfect array distribution. Further studies of the magnetic properties in an exchange biased and normal configuration are needed.

We are now concentrating on understanding the magnetic behavior of the dots we already prepared. Interestingly, we find below  $\sim 600$  Å dot size a transition from single or multi- domain to vortex state to single domain with decreasing size. For Fe dots we find an unexpected exchange bias even for the dot arrays without an antiferromagnet deliberately added to the structure. We suspect that this "bonus" comes from a possible Fe oxide present, which provides the exchange bias. This is under investigation at the present time and needs further research.

To date the smallest sizes we can reproducibly prepare are close to  $350\text{Å}$  with  $\sim 10\%$  dispersion. Improvements in the preparation of the alumina process are underway to decrease the size, to improve uniformity and to perfect array distribution. Further studies of the magnetic properties in an exchange biased and normal configuration are needed.

## 4. PERSONNEL SUPPORTED

### Postdoctoral Fellows:

Igor Roshchin

Maribel Montero

Johannes Eisenmenger (funded by von Humboldt foundation)

### Graduate students:

Changpeng Li

### Undergraduate Students:

Doug Bird

Nate Goldman (funded by NSF-REU program)

### Visitors:

Waldemar Macedo (funded by Brazilian Government)

Jose Vicent (funded by Spanish sources)

### Collaborators:

Kai Liu

Johan J. Åkerman

S.M. Baker

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K. Nishio

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Dora Altbir

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J.K. Furdyna

S.K. Sinha

S. Wolf

## 5. PUBLICATIONS

### Papers

#### Published in Refereed Journals

#### 1. Nanostructures and Proximity Effect

M.I. Montero, Kai Liu, O.M. Stoll, A. Hoffmann, Ivan K. Schuller, Johan J. Åkerman, J.I. Martin, J.L. Vicent, S.M. Baker, T.P. Russell, C. Leighton and J. Nogues  
J. Phys. D 35, 1 (2002).

#### 2. Hysteresis and Fractional Matching in Thin Nb Films with Rectangular Arrays of Nanoscaled Magnetic Dots

O.M. Stoll, M.I. Montero, J. Guimpel, Johan J. Åkerman and Ivan K. Schuller  
Phys. Rev. B 65, 104518 (2002).

3. **Fabrication and Thermal Stability of Arrays of Fe Nanodots**  
Kai Liu, J. Nogues, C. Leighton, I.V. Roshchin, H. Masuda, K. Nishio, and Ivan K. Schuller  
Appl. Phys. Lett. 81, 4434, (2002).
4. **Exchange Biased Magnetic Nanostructures**  
Kai Liu, J. Nogués, C. Leighton, Ivan K. Schuller, S. M. Baker, M. Tuominen, T. P. Russell, H. Masuda, and K. Nishio,  
Magnetoelectronics and Superconducting Electrical Engineering Conference, Beijing, China, August 10-15, 2002 – Proceedings.
5. **Ordered Magnetic Nanostructures: Fabrication and Properties**  
J.I. Martin, J. Nogues, Kai Liu, J.L. Vicent and Ivan K. Schuller  
Jour. Mag. Mag. Mat. 256, 449 (2003).
6. **Origin of Temperature Dependence in Tunneling Magnetoresistance**  
Johan J. Åkerman, Igor V. Roshchin, J.M. Slaughter, Renu Whig Dave and Ivan K. Schuller  
Europhys. Lett. 63 104 (2003).
7. **Relaxation Times in Exchange-biased Nanostructures**  
Jose Mejia-Lopez, Dora Altbir and Ivan K. Schuller  
Appl. Phys. Lett. 83, 332 (2003).

**Papers Submitted to Refereed Journals  
(Not Yet Published)**

1. **Neutron Scattering Studies of Nanomagnetism and Artificially Structured Materials**  
M.R. Fitzsimmons, S.D. Bader, J.A. Borchers, G.P. Felcher, J.K. Furdyna, A. Hoffmann, J.B. Kortright, Ivan K. Schuller, T.C. Schulthess, S.K. Sinha, M.F. Toney D. Weller and S. Wolf  
Jour. Mag. Mag. Mat. (In Press).

**Invited Talks  
(At National and International Meetings)**

1. **Magnetic and Superconducting Nanostructures**  
Ivan K. Schuller  
Festkolloquium, "Solid State Physics: Origin of the Future Electronics"  
Tuebingen, Germany, October 19, 2001.
2. **Nanolithography Using Electron Beam Writing and Self Assembly**  
Ivan K. Schuller, M.I. Montero, O.M. Stoll, Kai Liu and Johan J. Åkerman  
Materials Research Society, Fall 2001 Meeting  
Boston, MA November 26-30, 2001.

3. **Nanostructures,**  
Ivan K. Schuller  
Simposio en Fisica de Materiales del CCMC, Ensenada,  
Mexico, January 23-26, 2002.
4. **Proximity Effect with Magnetic Nanostructures**  
Ivan K. Schuller, O. Stoll, J. Akerman, J. Martin, K. Liu, C. Leighton, J. Nogues,  
J. Vicent, S.M. Baker, M. Tuominen and T.P. Russell  
International Conference on Superconductivity, GMR & Related Materials: Novel  
Trends, Giens, France, June 1-8, 2002.
5. **Unusual Properties in Exchange Biased Bilayers**  
J. Nogues, C. Leighton, M. Fitzsimmons, A. Hoffmann, K. Liu, M. Pechan,  
I.N. Krivorotov, E.D. Dahlberg and Ivan K. Schuller  
IUMRS International Conference on Electronic Materials  
Xian, China, June 10-14, 2002.
6. **Proximity Effect and Magnetic Nanostructures**  
M.I. Montero, Kai Liu, O.M. Stoll, A. Hoffmann,, Johan J. Åkerman, J.I. Martin,  
J.L. Vicent, S.M. Baker, T.P. Russell, C. Leighton, J. Nogues and Ivan K.  
Schuller  
TNT 2002 Conference, Santiago de Compostela (Spain), September 9-13, 2002.
7. **Adler Award Lecture: 25 Years of Metallic Superlattices**  
Ivan K. Schuller  
Bull. Am. Phys. Soc. 48, 137 (2003).
8. **Nanostructures: A Voyage from Three to Zero Dimensions**  
Ivan K. Schuller, M. Montero, I. V. Roshchin, J.I. Martin, M. Velez, J. Nogues,  
A. Hoffmann, P. Prieto, J. Vicent, O. Stoll, Kai Liu, S.M. Baker, T.P. Russell, C.  
Leighton, H. Masuda, and K. Nishio  
Institute for Structural and Engineering Materials (ISEM), Nagoya, Japan, June  
24, 2003.
9. **Stabilization of Magnetism in Ferromagnetic Dot Arrays Towards Terrabit  
per Square Inch Storage**  
Igor V.Roshchin, C.P. Li, M. Viret, Kai Liu, J.J. Tores, A.H. Romero, K. Nishio,  
H. Masuda, and Ivan K. Schuller, Non-Volatile Memory Technology Symposium  
NVMTS 2003, San Diego, CA., November 12-13, 2003.

#### **Invited Talks at Research Institutions**

1. **Artificially Prepared Nanostructures**  
Ivan K. Schuller, University Ulm, October 17, 2001.
2. **Magnetic Nanostructures**  
Ivan K. Schuller, UCSD Chemistry Department, January 29, 2002.
3. **Magnetic Nanostructures,**  
Ivan K. Schuller, UCLA Physics Department Seminar, January 30, 2002.

4. **Fabrication and Magnetism of Nanodots and Wires with Nanoconstrictions.**  
Igor V. Roshchin  
Special Condensed Matter Seminar. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.  
March 25 2002.
5. **Nanostructures and the Proximity Effect,**  
Ivan K. Schuller, Technische Hochschule, Aachen, June 17, 2002.
6. **Nanostructures and Proximity Effect**  
Ivan K. Schuller, Physics Department Colloquium, Ruhr-Universitat Bochum,  
July 8, 2002.
7. **Tunneling Criteria for Magnetic Tunnel Junctions**  
Ivan K. Schuller, Dept. Fisica Fonamental, Univ. Barcelona, July 12, 2002.
8. **Nanostructures and the Proximity Effect**  
Ivan K. Schuller, Hamburg University, Hamburg, Germany, August 2, 2002.
9. **Magnetism in Nanostructures**  
Igor Roshchin  
Division Seminar, General Physics , Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences,  
Moscow, Russia, October 2, 2002.
10. **Nanotechnology and Magnetism**  
Igor Roshchin  
Special Interdepartmental Colloquium,  
Southern Ural State University, Chelyabinsk, Russia, October 8, 2002.

#### Contributed Talks

1. **Exchange Bias in Magnetic Nanostructures Over Macroscopic Area**  
Kai Liu, Ivan K. Schuller, S.M. Baker, and T. Russell  
8<sup>th</sup> Joint MMM-Intermag Conference, San Antonio, Texas, January 7-11, 2001.
2. **Tailoring Exchange Bias with Magnetic Nanostructures**  
Kai Liu, Ivan K. Schuller, S.M. Baker, M. Tuominen, and T.P. Russell  
Bull. Am. Phys. Soc. 46, 261 (2001).
3. **Magnetization Stabilization in Arrays of Fe Nanodots with Exchange Bias**  
Kai Liu, J. Nogués, C. Leighton, H. Masuda, K. Nishio, and Ivan K. Schuller  
Magnetism and Magnetic Materials Conference, Seattle, WA., November 13-16,  
2001.
4. **Fabrication and Magnetization Stabilization in Arrays of Fe Nanodots with Exchange Bias**  
Kai Liu, Igor V. Roshchin, Ivan K. Schuller, J. Nogués, C. Leighton, C. Londergan, C. Kubiak, K. Nishio, and H. Masuda  
Bull. Am. Phys. Soc. 47, 789 (2002).

5. **Preparation of Nanoscopic Magnetic Structures in Exchange Biased Systems**  
Sarah Olmstead, Shenda Baker, Ivan Schuller, Kai Liu, and Thomas P. Russell  
Bull. Am. Phys. Soc. 47, 220 (2002).
6. **Exchange Biased Magnetic Nanostructures**  
Kai Liu, J. Nogues, C. Leighton, Ivan K. Schuller, S.M. Baker, M. Tuominen,  
T.P. Russell, H. Masuda and K. Nishio  
2002 International Symposium on Magnetoelectronics and Superconducting  
Electrical Engineering, Beijing, China, August 15-18, 2002.
7. **Magnetization Stabilization in Arrays of Fe Nanodots with Exchange Bias**  
Igor V. Roshchin, C.P. Li, Kai Liu, K. Nishio, H. Masuda and Ivan K. Schuller  
Bull. Am. Phys. Soc. 48, 1273 (2003).
8. **Synthesis and Thermal Stability of Nanomagnets**  
Kai Liu, L. Zhao, P. Klavins, Frank E. Osterloh, J. Nogues, C. Leighton, H.  
Masuda, K. Nishio, I.V. Roshchin and Ivan K. Schuller, International  
Conference on Composites/Nano Engineering (ICCE), New Orleans, LA, July 20-  
26, 2003.
9. **Size Effects in Exchange Biased Nanostructures**  
Johannes Eisenmenger, Zhipan Li, Oleg Petravic, Igor Roschin, Changpeng Li, Kai  
Liu, J. Nogués, C. Leighton, H. Masuda, K. Nishio, and Ivan K. Schuller  
TNT 2003 "Trends in Nanotechnology", Salamanca, Spain, September 15-19,  
2003.

## 6. HONORS AND AWARDS

Ivan K. Schuller

2003 – American Physical Society Adler Award – “For research in metallic heterostructures and superlattices, communicated with unusual enthusiasm and eloquence”.

2003 – Materials Research Society - MRS Medal – “For innovative studies of exchange bias in magnetic heterostructures and nanostructures”.